

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 RSR-01 /064 W

----- 017336

R 240952 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

DEPCHIEF UDORN

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3146

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB, LA, TH

SUBJECT: KHMER AIR FORCE TRAINING IN UDORN

1. ON APRIL 24, SOUVANNA ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM TO DISCUSS REQUEST HE HAD RECEIVED FROM CMER FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT PRIME MINISTER PERMIT KHMER PILOTS IN TRAINING AT UDORN AIR BASE TO USE LAO T-28 AIRCRAFT. SOUVANNA SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO INFORM CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON OF HIS AGREEMENT BUT IN ADDITION HE WILL SUGGEST THAT CAMBODIANS ALSO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH US AUTHORITIES.

2. I REPLIED THAT LAST WEEK GENERAL SOURITH, RLAF COMMANDER, HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH EMBASSY'S AIR ATTACHE. AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER AMONG OURSELVES AT EMBASSY, WE CONCLUDED THAT USE OF LAO T-28 S FOR TRAINING KHMER PILOTS IN UDORN WOULD AMOUNT TO USING LAO MASF FUNDED EQUIPMENT FOR CAMBODIA. WE CONSIDERED THIS CONTRARY TO EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONSTRAINTS, REGARDLESS HOW DESIRABLE KHMER TRAINING PROGRAM MAY BE. I TOLD SOUVANNA THAT I HAD THEREFORE ASKED DEPCHIEF TO INQUIRE WHETHER CAMBODIANS WERE BRINGING THEIR OWN T-28 S FOR THE
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PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. DEPCHIEF ASSURED ME THAT TRAINING PROGRAM HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED ON SPECIFIC PREMISE THAT KHMER WOULD USE THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT. AFTER CHECKING FURTHER DEPCHIEF HAD INFORMED ME THAT CAMBODIANS HAVE ALREADY SENT THREE OF THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT TO UDORN FOR THEIR PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. THEREFORE, I SAID, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR LAO TO LOAN THEIR AIRCRAFT TO CAMBODIAN PILOTS.

3. I FURTHER INFORMED PRIME MINISTER THAT U. S. PILOT INSTRUCTORS, NOT LAO, WOULD BE USED TO TRAIN KHMERS. FINALLY I TOLD SOUVANNA THAT DEPCHIEF HAD ASSURED ME THAT NO KHMER PILOTS WOULD BE FLYING OVER LAOS. (LAO PILOTS USUALLY MAKE LAST TRAINING FLIGHT BEFORE GRADUATION IN LAOS.)

4. SOUVANNA TOOK NOTE OF THIS INFORMATION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR BUT AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE, THE ARRIVAL OF THREE CAMBODIAN T-28 S AT UDORN REMOVED NEED FOR LAO AIRCRAFT FOR THE KHMER PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM.

DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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